European Communities Commentary

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Fair competition in the European Economic Community

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Since January 1, 1973, United Kingdom firms generally have been subject to the EEC provisions relating to restrictive trade practices, monopolies and mergers. Businessmen therefore need to know what the provisions are, to ensure that they do not act in breach of them. This article explains the object of the Community's competition policy and outlines the rules. It does not, however, deal with the competition rules of the European Coal and Steel Community, which relate only to coal and steel products listed in the Treaty of Paris.

The information in this article is an indication of the principal developments in the competition rules of the EEC. Readers should note that this information is given as a brief general guide, and that before acting upon it reference should be made to the text of the relevant Community provision. Legal advice should be sought in cases of doubt or difficulty.

The aim

EEC competition policy is designed to ensure that there is free and fair competition in trade between the Member States, and that the government trade barriers which have been dismantled by the Treaty of Rome are not replaced by private barriers which fragment the Common Market. The basic rules dealing with restrictions on competition are set out in Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty. The machinery for applying these general principles is contained in Articles 87-89, which give the Council of Ministers power to make any Regulations or Directives necessary for the application of Articles 85 and 86. The European Commission is responsible for supervising their application, for investigating any alleged breach of their provisions, and, if the breach is established, for bringing it to an end.

Restrictive trade practices

Article 85 prohibits all agreements or concerted practices which are likely to affect trade between Member States and which have as their object or result the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the Common Market. This includes, in particular, price-fixing, market sharing, restriction of production or technical developments, and the imposition of discriminatory terms of supply or of other unreasonable conditions. The Article applies not only to agreements between firms of Member States but also to agreements between firms in the Community and those in third countries. Restrictions which affect only the internal trade of a Member State or trade with countries outside the Community are excluded.

Any agreement between enterprises which infringes the Article is rendered void. The Article does, however, allow for exemptions in the case of agreements and concerted practices which either improve production or distribution or promote technical or economic progress.

The European Commission is the body mainly concerned with applying the provisions of Article 85. It has sole power to grant exemption from these provisions to an agreement or practice, by declaring the prohibition in the Article inapplicable.

The Commission must give interested parties an opportunity to make representations to it when it is deciding whether an agreement infringes the Article or whether the Article should be declared inapplicable. Questions of law relating to the interpretation and implementation of the Treaty may be referred to the European Court of Justice at Luxembourg.*

Block exemptions

In addition to exempting individual agreements, the Commission may, if authorised by the Council of Ministers, grant block exemptions in favour of particular categories of agreement. So far it has issued two block-exemption Regulations.

(1) **Regulation No. 67** of 1967 exempts certain categories of exclusive dealing agreements between a supplier and a distributor. It sets out the restrictions which may be included in such agreements, and those which are not allowed if the agreement is to come within the exemption. The block exemption does not apply to agreements where the parties exercise patent or trade-mark or similar rights in order to prevent dealers or consumers in a part of the Common Market from buying protected products which have been put into circulation in other parts of the Community by the holder of the property rights or by his licensees. Nor does it apply to agreements

* See article on page 4 of this issue.

where the dealer is granted absolute territorial protection by the supplier, ie where the supplier does not permit other dealers to supply his goods in the allotted market. It is permissible for the supplier to require the dealer not to seek sales outside his allotted territory, but he may not forbid the dealer to supply if customers outside the territory come to him with orders. Firms which wish to know whether their exclusive dealing agreements come within the block exemption need to study them in the light of the Regulation. If an agreement is clearly exempt, they may continue to operate it without further ado. If it is not, they have the choice of terminating it, or amending it to remove any restrictions which are not permitted, or applying to the Commission for specific exemption. The block exemption was due to expire at the end of 1972, but it has been extended for a further 10 years by **Regulation No. 2591** of 1972.

(2) **Regulation No. 2779** of 1972 exempts certain categories of agreements for the specialisation of production. It applies only where the products which are the subject of specialisation represent not more than 10 per cent of the volume of business in identical products in any Member State. A further limit is that the aggregate annual turnover of the parties must not exceed 150 million units of account.[1] As in the case of exclusive dealing agreements, firms are advised to study their specialisation agreements to see whether they are covered by the block exemption.

The Commission has been authorised to grant block exemptions in respect of patent and other licensing agreements, agreements for the use of common standards or types, and agreements for joint research and development. Block-exemption Regulations have not yet been issued for these categories.

Agreements outside the scope of Article 85

In addition to granting block exemptions, the Commission has given guidance on the types of agreement which it does not consider to be caught by Article 85.[2] These consist of agreements which do not prevent or restrict competition or which, while restrictive, do not have a perceptible effect on trade between Member States. The categories of agreement are:

(1) Agreements between firms and commercial agents in the strict sense, ie agents who merely negotiate on behalf of their principals without assuming financial responsibility for any goods.

(2) Certain types of co-operation agreements, including agreements whose sole object is one or more of the following:

(i) An exchange of opinion or experience; joint market research; the joint carrying out of comparative studies of enterprises or industries.

(ii) Co-operation in accounting; joint provision of credit guarantees; joint debt-collecting associations; joint business-consultancy or tax-consultancy agencies.

(iii) Joint implementation, placing and sharing-out of research and development projects among the participating firms.

(iv) Joint use of production facilities, of storage facilities, and of transport equipment.

(v) Setting up working partnerships for the common execution of orders, where the participating firms do not compete with each other over the work to be done, or where each of them by itself is unable to execute the orders.

(vi) Joint selling arrangements; joint after-sales and repair service, provided the participating firms are not competitors over the products or services covered by the agreement.

(vii) Joint advertising.

(viii) The use of a common label to designate a certain quality, where the label is available to all competitors on the same conditions.

(3) Agreements of minor importance[3], where neither the size of the firms concerned nor their share of the market is such as to have an appreciable effect on trade between Member States. The upper limits for this purpose are a total turnover of the participating companies of 15 million units of account in the industrial sector and 20 million units of account in the commercial sector, and a combined market share of 5 per cent for the product in question in the part of the Common Market affected by the agreement.

Notification

Firms which are in doubt as to whether the general prohibition under Article 85 applies to their agreements may notify them to the Commission for the purpose of obtaining 'negative clearance', ie a declaration by the Commission that on the basis of the facts at its disposal there are no grounds for it to intervene under Article 85. Alternatively, if Article 85 is applicable, and the agreements in question are neither covered by a block exemption, nor fall in the few categories of agreements which do not need to be notified to the Commission and which are set out in Article 4(2)[4] of

[1] A unit of account is defined in terms of fine gold. For practical purposes, 240 units equal £100.

[2] Commission Notice on exclusive dealing contracts with commercial agents—Official Journal No. 13a of December 24, 1962; and Commission Notice concerning agreements in the field of co-operation between enterprises —Official Journal No. C.75 of July 29, 1968.

[3] Commission Notice of May 27, 1970 concerning agreements of minor importance; Official Journal No. C.64 of June 2, 1970.

[4] Article 4 of Regulation No. 17 of 1962, as amended by Regulation No. 2822 of 1971, is as follows:

Notification of new agreements, decisions and practices.

1. Agreements, decisions and concerted practices of the kind described in Article 85(1) of the Treaty which come into existence after the entry into force of this Regulation and in respect of which the parties seek application of Article 85(3) must be notified to the Commission. Until they have been notified, no decision in application of Article 85(3) may be taken.

2. Paragraph 1 shall not apply to agreements, decisions and concerted practices where:

(i) the only parties thereto are undertakings from one Member State and the agreements, decisions or practices do not relate either to imports or to exports between Member States;

(ii) not more than two undertakings are party thereto, and the agreements only:

(a) restrict the freedom of one party to the contract in determining the prices or conditions of business upon which the goods which he has obtained from the other party to the contract may be resold; or

(b) impose restrictions on the exercise of the rights of the assignee or user of industrial property rights—in particular patents, utility models, designs or trade marks—or of the person entitled under a contract to the assignment, or grant, of the right to use a method of manufacture or knowledge relating to the use and to the application of industrial processes;

(iii) they have as their sole object:

(a) the development or uniform application of standards or types; or

(b) joint research and development;

(c) specialisation in the manufacture of products, including agreements necessary for achieving this;—where the products which are the subject of specialisation do not, in a substantial part of the Common Market, represent more than 15% of the volume of business done in identical products or those considered by the consumers to be similar by reason of their characteristics, price and use, and—where the total annual turnover of the participating undertakings does not exceed 200 million units of account.

These agreements, decisions and concerted practices may be notified to the Commission.

Regulation No. 17 of 1962, the parties must terminate them, or modify them to remove the clauses restricting trade between Member States, or notify them to the Commission and apply for exemption. It is sensible to notify agreements, such as any exclusive dealing agreements which do not come within the block exemption, for the parties will be able to observe them without incurring sanctions, though not necessarily to enforce them, until a decision on whether to grant exemption has been reached. There appears to be little point, however, in applying for the exemption of obviously objectionable agreements, such as price-fixing agreements, for there is virtually no prospect of exemption being granted. The Commission sifts through applications when they are received in order to single out such agreements with a view to informing the parties that there is no prospect of exemption and no immunity from sanctions.

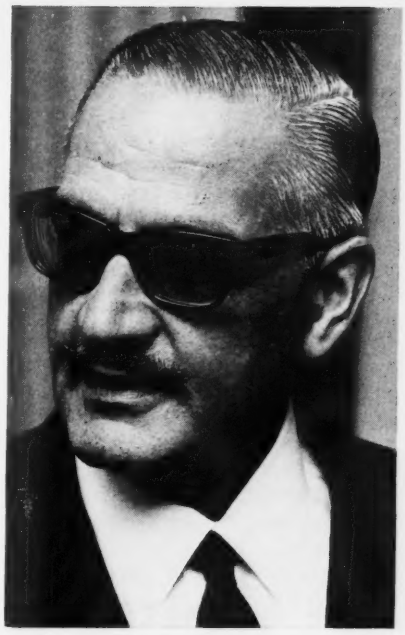
In the case of agreements made before January 1, 1973, which became subject to the provisions of Article 85 as a result of United Kingdom accession, a 6-month period of grace was negotiated in which the parties could notify them to the Commission. The period ended on June 30, 1973. Agreements notified by that date acquired temporary validity, ie they are legally enforceable notwithstanding that the Commission has not yet decided whether to grant exemption. Agreements notified after the deadline are void.

There was no period of grace for the notification of agreements made on or after January 1, 1973. Agreements in this category should be notified as soon as they are made, in order to avoid sanctions. They do not acquire temporary validity upon notification, and remain void unless and until the Commission decides to grant exemption.

Applications for exemption or negative clearance should be made on Form A/B direct to the European Commission in Brussels. Copies of the Form and the explanatory notes may be obtained from the DTI Offices for Scotland and Wales, all DTI Regional and District Offices, the Ministry of Commerce, Belfast, and the European Communities Information Services, 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ.

Monopolies and mergers

Under Article 86 of the Treaty, any abuse of a dominant position within the Common Market is prohibited in so far as it affects trade between Member States. The Article does not define 'abuse', nor does it define a 'dominant position'. The cases which have been dealt with shed little light on how large a share of the market a firm needs to have for it to be regarded as having a dominant position, since the firms involved had either an absolute monopoly or a near absolute monopoly. The most significant case under Article 86 was the Continental Can case, where the Commission instituted proceedings against that company when it acquired a Dutch competitor through its European subsidiary. In February 1973 the European Court of Justice upheld the appeal by Continental Can against the Commission's decision that it had abused its dominant position; but it also upheld the Commission's view that Article 86 can be used to deal with mergers in certain cases.



European Commissioner Albert Borschette, of Luxembourg—the Commissioner with responsibility for Community competition policy.

The Commission has recently submitted to the Council of Ministers a draft Regulation for Community merger control. If adopted, the Regulation will enable the Commission to screen mergers before they are carried out. The draft provides that any transaction which has the effect of bringing about a concentration between undertakings, at least one of which is established in the Community, whereby they acquire or enhance the power to hinder effective competition in the Common Market or in a substantial part thereof, is incompatible with the Common Market in so far as the concentration may affect trade between Member States. The draft also provides that where the undertakings which propose to merge have an aggregate annual turnover of not less than 1,000 million units of account, the proposed merger must be notified to the Commission before it takes place. If the Commission does not commence proceedings against it within a specified time, the merger may proceed. If the Commission institutes proceedings, the merger may not go ahead unless and until the Commission approves it. If the aggregate turnover of the undertakings does not exceed 1,000 million units of account, the merger will not need to be notified and may proceed, but the Commission will have the right to intervene if it thinks fit. Mergers will not be subject to Community control if the aggregate turnover is less than 200 million units of account and the goods or services concerned by the concentration do not account in any Member State for more than 25 per cent of the market for such goods. These are, of course, no more than proposals at this stage. The draft Regulation may be altered significantly before it is finally adopted.

Industrial and commercial property rights

Quite apart from the provisions of Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty, Article 36 (in the chapter dealing with the elimination of quantitative restrictions as between Member States) provides that the exercise of industrial and commercial property rights shall not be used as a disguised restriction on trade between Member States. It is generally recognised, however, that the relationship between the Community rules of competition and national laws protecting industrial and commercial property rights gives rise to problems, since there is a conflict between the principle of free movement of goods within the Community and the various national systems of industrial property.

There is very little case law on the subject. The Commission has reached a few decisions on applications for the exemption of individual licensing agreements, but the main developments have arisen from four judgments handed down by the European Court of Justice. It would seem that the general principle which has emerged is that, once a product has been put into circulation lawfully anywhere in the Community by the owner of the rights or with his consent, the rights cannot be invoked to impede the circulation of those products within the Common Market. Although this is entirely in harmony with the objective of achieving a single integrated market, the judgments raise a number of questions and have given rise to a great deal of speculation. These matters are unlikely to be clarified until there are further decisions on the subject by the Commission or by the Court.

Conclusion

The Community's rules of competition are intended to ensure that firms compete fairly, and will help British firms to

take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the Common Market.

Although some British firms may need to modify or abandon certain practices to which Community rules apply, they will not be at a disadvantage compared with firms elsewhere in the Community. Firms in the six original Member States have been complying with the rules for a number of years, and, although they may find competition keener as a result, there is no reason to believe that they have been harmed by them. British firms should not find it difficult to adapt their business arrangements to comply with the rules; they are used to observing United Kingdom rules on monopolies, mergers and restrictive trading agreements, and to competing vigorously and successfully both at home and overseas.

Firms wishing to obtain guidance on their agreements should seek legal advice. They may ask the Overseas Relations Department of the Law Society, in England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland as the case may be, for advice on suitable firms of solicitors to approach.

The Community's rules of competition, and the way in which they have evolved through their application by the Commission, show that the EEC's thinking on this subject closely resembles our own. Now that we are a member of the Community we shall, of course, help to formulate policy development.

1. English translations of the Regulations issued by the Commission on the subject of competition are contained in **Part IV** of *European Communities Secondary Legislation* published by HMSO.

2. In April 1972 the Commission produced its first **Report on Competition Policy** for the European Parliament, covering the first 10 years of its work. A second **Report** setting out subsequent developments was published in April 1973. English translations of the Reports are available from HMSO.

The European Court of Justice

by Anne Woodward, Europe Industry and Technology Division, DTI

In all the publicity about Community Institutions that accompanied the United Kingdom's entry into Europe, the European Court of Justice has tended to be neglected in favour of lengthy descriptions of the activities and composition of the Commission and the Council of Ministers. Notwithstanding, the Court has at least as much immediate importance as the other Institutions for businesses and individuals with activities likely to be affected by the Community Treaties and the rules made under them; after all, it is the Court's job to interpret and enforce Community Law, even though the only law-enforcement agencies at the disposal of the Court are those of the Member States. This article discusses the Court's function, make-up, scope and procedures.

Background

Since the UK's accession, the Court has had nine Judges, one from each Member State; under the Six it had seven judges—an odd number so as to ensure that a majority judgment was always possible. The Judges must possess the qualifications required for appointment to the highest Court of their own State, and are 'elected' by the Governments of the Member States for a six-year term of office, though they may be re-elected for a further term. The Judge from the UK is Lord MacKenzie Stewart, who prior to his appointment in January 1973 sat on the Scottish Court of Session.

The President of the Court is elected by the Judges from their own number. He serves for three years, presiding over the plenary sessions of the Court and giving directions over a wide range of matters of an executive nature. He also has extensive administrative functions. The current President is Mr. Robert Lecourt, a member of the Court since June 1962, who has recently been re-elected to serve until 1976.

The European Court of Justice in session.

Attached to the Court are four Advocates-General, one from each of the larger Member States. The post of Advocate-General is one well-known in Continental Law. An independent 'friend of the Court', the Advocate-General makes 'reasoned submissions' at the close of oral proceedings, and he may, on many procedural matters, be asked for his views by the Court before it comes to a decision. He may question witnesses and Counsel to the parties. Like the Judges, Advocates-General are appointed for six years, and retire in rotation every three years. The Advocate-General from the UK is Mr. Jean Pierre Warner, who became a Queen's Counsel shortly before his appointment to the European Court.

The ancillary services of the Court are administered by the Registrar, Mr.

Albert van Houtte of Belgium. The Registrar is responsible for general organisation and for ensuring that the proper documentation and evidence is provided by the parties and is available to the Court. He also prepares the minutes, keeps the registers and issues formal documents.

Procedures

Cases are normally heard before the full Court, and those coming from the Courts of Member States, or brought by Institutions or Member States, must be so heard. In other types of case, and for dealing with procedural questions (notably preparatory inquiries), the Court consists of a 'chamber' of three or five judges with an Advocate-General attached.

In the European Court, as in all the other Community Institutions, 'language' is a factor which has inevitably influenced procedure. The Court may hear cases in any of the six official Community languages. The language is chosen by the applicant unless the defendant is a Member State, in which case the language is that of the Member State. In the case of requests for preliminary rulings, the language is that of the party requesting the ruling. Simultaneous translation is available, and the Judges in fact need know only one language other than their own—French: they always deliberate in French, irrespective of the language in which the case is heard.

The European Court's procedure owes much to that of Continental legal systems. The proceedings are divided into two parts: a 'written stage' and an 'oral stage'. The written stage begins with a formal request from the applicant stating the subject matter of the dispute and the relief sought, and including a short summary of the main arguments on which the petition is based and any other relevant documents (such as the Act under which, say, an annulment is being sought). The most important thing to realise about this stage is that the parties may not bring forward new arguments at a later date. On receipt, the applicant's request is notified to the other party, who has one month to file a reply, and either party has then an opportunity to submit a last formal document to meet the argument of the other side. Before the written case is officially closed, the Court may decide to question the parties, or request more information.

The oral procedure consists of the hearing of counsel for the parties to the case and the submissions of the Advocate-General (which are usually read during a separate Court session at the end of the oral stage). The judges then deliberate, and, though they can reach their decision on the basis of a majority vote, their judgment is always presented without dissent.

The procedure in cases requesting preliminary rulings on points of Community law is fairly similar to that in contentious cases, but there is no exchange of pleadings, the basis of the request being a single document from the referring Court, setting out the argument of the parties before it and the facts and matters at issue.

Jurisdiction

The European Court is the sole interpreter of Community law. The cases which come before it are usually the outcome of disputes between a Member State and an Institution, between a Member State and a Member State, or between an individual or a company and an Institution.

In the case where the Commission accuses a Member State of a breach of the Treaties or of the laws derived from them, every effort is first made to settle the matter by negotiation, and only if these attempts fail is the dispute taken to the Court. Even then, the Member State is given another chance to conform with the Commission's stipulations before the case proceeds to a hearing, and the Commission has to issue a reasoned opinion allowing the State an adequate period in which to comply. The Court has handed down about two dozen judgments against Member States for non-compliance with the Treaties or the Community's secondary legislation.

The Commission *v* the Federal Republic of Germany is a recent case in which the Court ruled against the Commission. The German Government was accused of failing to take note of a Commission Decision of February 17, 1971, requiring Germany to desist from granting certain State aids to coal mining. The case was dismissed on the grounds that the Commission had failed to follow the correct procedure of telling the German Government how it should alter its laws, and giving it a time limit by which to comply with the order.

A Member State has the right to seek the Court's judgment against another Member State which it cites for non-compliance with Community law, though no Member State has yet exercised this right. The Court also has jurisdiction where a Community Institution is proceeded against by a Member State, or by another Institution, in a suit to have a binding act issued by the defendant Institution annulled on the grounds that this Institution has acted outside its legal powers, violated procedural rules of the Treaty itself, or used its powers to achieve ends for which they were not intended. If the Court judges for the plaintiff, it is left to the Institution to find a suitable replacement for the binding act. An Institution may, too, be brought to Court by a Member State or another Institution for failing to act when legally bound to do so.

Both these kinds of case may also be brought by individuals and companies in Member States, provided they can prove that the acts in question are addressed to them or of direct and individual concern to them. A case in point is the action for annulment which Europembellage Corporation and Continental Can Company brought against the Commission, contesting a Commission Decision of December 9, 1971, to the effect that Continental Can had abused an existing monopoly position through the acquisition of a controlling interest in a competitor.

Disputes relating to compensation for damages to natural and legal persons adversely affected by Community action also fall within the Court's jurisdiction. The action in question need not necessarily be illegal in the sense that it can be annulled, but on the other hand the mere fact of illegality may not give rise to a duty to compensate.

National Courts

About half the cases heard by the Court are not brought direct, but are referred to it by National Courts under Article 177 of the Treaty of Rome. Under this Article any National Court which has before it a case involving Community law may refer the case to the European Court for a preliminary ruling on a point of law. If such a case reaches the highest Court of a Member State without having been referred for a preliminary ruling, it should be put to the European Court for a preliminary ruling on the relevant point of law. The ruling may then be interpreted by the National Court when it makes its judgment. There has been some argument on this point, and France has said that she will not refer cases when a ruling has already been given on the point in question.

Case law

The decisions of the Court of Justice have, since 1954, been published in the original official languages of the Court in a series of law reports known in French as the *Receuil de la Jurisprudence de la Cour*, and since our accession this series has appeared in English under the title *Reports of Cases before the Court*. The backlog of cases prior to our accession will be officially translated into English in due course, but the majority of the more important cases have already been translated in unofficial versions and published commercially in the *Common Market Law Reports* and in the *Common Market Reporter*.

The Community's Business Co-operation Centre

Interested in co-operation with firms in other Member States? . . . The EEC's 'Marriage Bureau' could well match you up.

The Business Co-operation Centre—the so-called 'Marriage Bureau'—was set up in Brussels earlier this year to encourage and facilitate co-operation between firms from different Member States. The Centre's role is a passive one (it responds to requests for help; it does not take the initiative), but its terms of reference cover all forms of co-operation, including mergers. Though no restriction is placed on the type or size of company which can make use of the Centre, its services are intended to be of benefit primarily to small and medium-sized firms.

The centre has three main functions:

(1) To put companies seeking co-operation in touch with others in different countries of the Community (agency inquiries are excluded from the Centre's work).
(2) To provide information on national and Community provisions in the legal, fiscal, social and competitive fields.
(3) To report back to the Commission on obstacles to co-operation within the Community.

Under the direction of Mr. R. E. Peeters, the Centre has made a good start, and has received many requests for information and assistance. And, because of the difficulty of 'matching' inquiries about co-operation from its own records, it has been pushing ahead with the development of relations with trade associations, Chambers of Commerce, etc., who could act as correspondents in the various Member States. *European Communities Commentary* **has been asked to help by publishing summaries of the requests for co-operation received from firms in Member States other than the United Kingdom. This we have readily agreed to do, and in future the summaries will form a regular feature of the** *Commentary*. **The first batch is reproduced below.**

Readers wishing to obtain further information should write direct to the Centre at the following address, *quoting the reference number of the request(s) in which they are interested:* **Business Co-operation Centre, 15-17 rue Archimède, B-1040 Brussels. The Centre makes no charge for its services, and all inquiries are treated as strictly confidential. No names are revealed without the agreement of all parties.**

Reference: BRE/1008/140A
A group of independent companies—established in France, the Netherlands and Belgium, and specialised in the production and the sale of lubricants for motors and industry—wants to come into contact with similar firms in Germany, Denmark, Great Britain, Ireland and Italy for collaboration on different levels: research and development, marketing, application of a common European brandname, exchange of technical information, etc.
Languages: French, English, Dutch.

Reference: BRE/930/258
Dutch firm, importers and distributors of cosmetics and perfumes and manufacturers of alcoholic proprietary products, turnover 1·6 million guilders, seeks acquisition by EEC firm same branch.
Languages: Dutch, French, German, English.

Reference: BRE/344/313
German manufacturer of seating, supplier to the automobile industry and the Federal railways, DM6,400,000 turnover, seeks co-operation and exchange of experience in research, development, production, selling with EEC companies, same branch, financial links possible.
Languages: German, English, Italian.

Reference: BRE/874/325
Dutch engineering works (lifting tackle, repairs, specific customers' demand) 12,000,000 guilders turnover, seeks larger EEC partner for co-operation in research, production, marketing. Financial association desirable.
Languages: German, English, Dutch.

Reference: BRE/733/41-42
Italian firm with annual turnover of over 800 million lire, in continual expansion and with modern plant, producing macaroni, spaghetti, etc., and with good trade in related products, rice, flour, tortellini, operating in Italy, England and Germany with a large network of retailers, wholesalers and agents, seeks, for subsequent expansion in production and distribution, a larger EEC firm, preferably English or German, operating in the same sector, possibly with view to establishing financial links.
Languages: Italian, German.

Reference: BRE/179/419
A syndicate of companies in the Netherlands producing basic bakery materials in the Netherlands and Germany, 65 employees, seeks co-operation in production (specialisation, standardisation) knowhow, development and technology, buying, selling (pooling or exchange of sales networks, common brand names) with similar companies in Germany, Benelux, the United Kingdom and Denmark.
Languages: Dutch, German, English, French.

Reference: BRE/815/43
Dutch firm seeks French, German or UK group with a wide production range to co-operate with its French subsidiary, which produces and markets combed woollen yarn, and woollen yarn and man-made fibres for luxury knitwear, turnover FF12 million; wants to establish financial links.
Languages: Dutch, German, English, French.

Reference: BRE/897/45
Netherlands company manufacturing and distributing foundation garments and related products, having a turnover of 25,000,000 guilders and production facilities in Belgium and Tunisia and sales organisations in Belgium, France and Germany, seeks French, German or British partner of similar size operating in the same field (foundation garments, underwear and leisurewear) for co-operation in research and development, marketing and distribution.
Languages: Dutch, German, English, French.

Reference: BRE/743/46
Dutch family business, sawmills with timber-yard, packing-case and pallet factory, with considerable financial resources (real estate), 5,000,000 guilders turnover, wishes to offer its shares with a view to take-over by a larger company affording more scope.
Languages: Dutch, German, English, French, Italian.

Reference: BRE/805/47
Italian printing firm of national importance, annual turnover 1,250 million lire, 161

employees, specialised production to order of any kind of publication, seeks technological and commercial co-operation with a European firm of the same type or which places its own products on the market, and which is preferably larger than the Italian firm in question. Possibility of stockholding merger.
Languages: Italian, French, English.

Reference: BRE/984/473
Belgian firm, manufacturer, importer and transformer of pressure sensitive rolls and sheets, paper, textile, aluminium, plastics, also water-soluble labels, having printing office, turnover BF10,000,000, seeks British or other EEC partner, same or complementary branch, preferably with chemical laboratory, for co-operation in the fields of technology, production and marketing. Financial links preferred.
Languages: Dutch, French, English.

Reference: BRE/1026/481
Italian firm producing technical articles in rubber to order, 350 employees, annual turnover 2,000 million lire, seeks co-operation with EEC firm of the same size and operating in same sector to develop new products of high technological content, and for subsequent expansion in distribution sector, perhaps through acquisition of an interest.
Languages: Italian, German, English.

Reference: BRE/948/483
Italian firm producing for the market insulating sandwich panels in expanded polyurethane for building or industrial (refrigerating) uses, 35 employees, annual turnover 350 million lire, with Hennecke-Bayer continuous-production plant, select national clientele, growing custom in African and Middle East markets, seeks large/medium-sized EEC firm for co-operation in technology, production and sales, perhaps through acquisition of an interest.
Languages: Italian, German, French.

Reference: BRE/38/494
German manufacturer of small plastic toys, DM6,000,000 turnover, seeks partner in the English market, comparable size and same branch, with view to co-operation in selling.
Languages: German, English.

Reference: BRE/925/72
Dutch holding company for, inter alia, road-transport companies, 60,000,000 guilders turnover, wishes to contact for take-over purposes road-transport companies in Germany, France and Britain with 4-10 million guilders turnover, which will thereafter continue as independent units or wishes to contact similar undertakings for consultations with a view to establishing joint ventures.
Languages: Dutch, German, English, French.

Reference: BRE/860/83
Dutch firm of consulting engineers (construction technique, foundation technique, civil engineering), 600,000 guilders turnover, seeks co-operation with firm of consultants in other EEC country.
Languages: Dutch, German, English, French, Italian.

Reference: BRE/222/50
Belgian wholesale dealer in automatic control devices and systems (heating, refrigeration, air-conditioning), turnover BF90 million, seeks purchaser in Great Britain, Germany or the Netherlands of all or part of business.
Languages: French, German, English, Dutch.

Reference: BRE/72/95c
Small Dutch consultant bureau specialised in organisation, planning and equipping of health-care facilities (hospitals, university hospitals, special clinics), would like to extend in the field of recreation, hotels, shipping etc., and is looking for partners in Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland or Denmark who are interested in these matters in order to enlarge the field of consultancy. The partner we are looking for should preferably not duplicate our discipline but complete the range of consultancy possibilities. Financial links possible and preferable.
Languages: Dutch, German, English.

Publications on the European Communities

Listed below are official publications on European Communities' matters issued during the period September 1, 1973-October 31, 1973. All can be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Orders, quoting the Standard Book Number (which in the list is given in brackets after each title), should be sent to HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1. The price inclusive of postage is given in parenthesis at the end of each reference.

I Parliamentary publications

House of Lords Paper 194 (Session 1972-3). Second Report by the Select Committee on Procedures for Scrutiny of Proposals for European Instruments together with the Proceedings of the Committee and Minutes of Evidence. (0 10 419473 1). 318 pp. £2.40 (£2.53).

House of Commons Paper 294. Report from the Select Committee on Overseas Development. The United Kingdom's Entry into Europe and Economic Relations with Developing Countries. Volume I. (10 289273 3). 45 pp. 31½p (35p). Volume II. **Minutes of Evidence with Appendices.** (0 10 291073 5). 104 pp. 85p (90½p).

House of Commons Paper 121-xii. Select Committee on European Community Secondary Legislation. Minutes of Evidence. June 19, 1973. (0 10 290773 0). pp. 184-201. 26½p (29½p).

House of Commons Paper 121-xiii. Select Committee on European Community Secondary Legislation. Minutes of Evidence. June 26, 1973. (0 10 290473 1). pp. 202-216. 24p (27p).

Cmnd. 5432. Miscellaneous No. 26 (1973). Political Co-operation by the Member States of the European Communities. Text of the Second Report on European Political Co-operation on Foreign Policy. (0 10 154320 4). 12 pp. 10½p (13½p).

II Non-Parliamentary publication

Department of the Environment. International Convention concerning the carriage of goods by rail (CIM). Annex I. International Regulations concerning the carriage of dangerous goods by rail (RID). 1973 edition. (11 550285 8). 408 pp. £2.35 (£2.53).

III Publications sold but not published by HMSO

Commission of the European Communities

Regional Development in the Community: Analytical Survey, 1971. (0 11 933503 4). 316 pp. 82½p (£1.01).

Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Communities. English Edition. Special Edition 1952-72. August 1973. 24 pp. Gratis (3p). (Note: Customers who have purchased Special Editions 1952-72 should apply for this supplement of Corrigenda.)

Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Communities 9/73. Strengthening of the Budgetary Powers of the European Parliament. (0 11 933540 9). 16 pp. 12p (16p).

Statistical Office of the European Communities

Industrial Statistics Yearbook 1972. (in German, French, Italian and Dutch only). (0 11 933509 3). 152 pp. £2.31 (£2.42).

OECD

Economic Surveys:
BLEU (Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union). July 1973. (92 64 11097 6). 88 pp. 35p (42p).
Denmark. July 1973. (92 64 11083 6). 64 pp. 35p (40½p).
Netherlands. May 1973. (92 64 11084 4). 70 pp. 35p (40½p).

Eliminating technical barriers to trade within the EEC

Article 100: Directives applicable to agricultural tractors and machinery

by E. J. Parker, Mechanical Engineering Division, DTI

Legislation covering machinery is introduced primarily to ensure the safety and protect the health of the people who use the machinery. Such legislation sets down the technical requirements which must be met before the machinery may be placed on the local market; but the technical requirements for a given piece of machinery inevitably tend to differ from one country to another, and it is these differences which create technical barriers to trade. Machinery is not, of course, alone in being beset with these obstacles: as was indicated in a general article in the June issue of *European Communities Commentary*, the products in which free trade between countries is inhibited by technical barriers are numerous, ranging from textiles to protective clothing, detergents, toys and industrial explosives.

The attack on technical barriers within the Community is based on Article 100 of the Treaty of Rome, which authorises the Council to issue Directives formulated to ensure that the particular product or product sector covered conforms to a common set of technical specifications satisfying the requirements of each of the Member States. Because of the universal nature of technical barriers, Directives are based, wherever possible, on published and draft international standards, particularly where agricultural tractors and machinery are concerned. Agricultural tractor manufacturers in this country are required to satisfy the provisions of two different sets of legislation, designed, respectively, to ensure safety on the road and safety at work in whatever country they are marketed. Hence, although the primary function of an agricultural tractor is to carry out farm operations (and it is, of course, designed for this purpose), because it sometimes has to use the highway, it has also to comply with the relevant requirements of the Road Traffic Regulations. Fortunately in the United Kingdom the conflict of interests which could arise from these different functions is prevented by close co-operation between the appropriate Government Department and Industry. This co-operation has now been extended to the consideration of draft EEC Directives by the establishment of a consultative committee made up of representatives from industry, users, research establishments, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Department of the Environment and the Department of Trade and Industry.

There is broad agreement within the EEC on the main aspects of the subjects being dealt with. The main causes of delay in reaching agreement on the wording of the Directives are the detailed differences between the national legislation of the Member States; and this to some extent accounts for the slow rate of progress in the production of Directives for agricultural tractors and machines. The present article gives a rundown on how work is proceeding in this field.

Formulation

The Commission has given the task of formulating Directives for agricultural tractors and machines to a working group of experts whose members are drawn from each of the Member States. The members of the working group are all Government officials. The European Trade Association provides observers who attend working group meeting to supply technical information at the request of the Chairman.

Since its formation in 1960 the working group has prepared the general framework Directive covering the type approval of agricultural tractors with maximum design speeds between 6 km per hour and 25 km per hour, and two of the special Directives covering 10 of the 50 technical subjects which derive from the general type-approval document. The three Directives were approved by the Council on December 19, 1972. The United Kingdom was not then a permanent member of the Community, but before the three Directives were submitted to the Council the United Kingdom was invited to send observers to the meetings of the working group. The Commission took note of the several observations put forward by the United Kingdom and many of these were included in the approved Directives. Unfortunately one of the most important, the raising of the upper design speed limit, was not accepted for inclusion in the Directive.

With the entry into the Community of the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland, and in an attempt to speed up the production of Directives, the remaining technical subjects, which derive from the general framework Directive, have been reallocated to the delegation members of the working group, who have undertaken to prepare draft proposals for consideration by the group as a whole. In a further attempt to accelerate agreement on the more complex draft proposals, an *ad hoc* group, comprising one member from each of the delegations, has been set up with the task of producing a single set of proposals for each of the Directives referred to it.

The working group of experts is now working to an agreed timetable with the object of completing all of the Directives relating to agricultural tractors by 1977.

The general Directive

The manner in which technical barriers to trade will be removed in respect of agricultural tractors is established in the general Directive concerned with the type approval of wheeled tractors with maximum design speeds of between 6 and 25 kilometres per hour. The majority of agricultural tractors manufactured in the United Kingdom have maximum design speeds in excess of 25 km per hour but, because of a tolerance of 10 per cent which had been provided for in the Directive, tractors with design speeds of up to 27.5 km per hour are included.

Technical subject areas to be covered by Directives

Position and fitting of plates.
Statutory inscriptions on tractor.
Length.
Width.
Height unladen.
Ballast weights.
Maximum authorised load.
Distribution of maximum authorised load between the axles.
Maximum authorised weight on each of the axles.
Authorised limit of the distribution of weight between the axles.
Trailer weights.
Maximum vertical load at the attachment point.
Fuel tanks.
Auxiliary fuel tanks.
Suppression.
Governor.
Exterior noise level.
Silencers.
Smoke from diesel engines.
Stopping device for engine.
Maximum speed.
Reverse.
Power-take-offs.
Protection of engine and projecting parts of wheels.
Steering, type of mechanisms and assistance systems.
Brakes.
Field of vision.
Rear-view mirrors.
Safety arc.
Safety frame.
Safety cabs.
Other protective devices.
Doors.
Windscreens and other windows.
Windscreen wipers.
Other protective devices against bad weather.
Driver's seat.
Passenger's seat.
Foot rests.
Load platforms.
Noise level at the driver's ears.
Ease of access to driving position.
Lights and light-signalling devices.
Horns.
Coupling between tractor and trailer.
Electrical coupling for trailers.
Location and marking of controls.
Trailer couplings.
Distress signals.
Front coupling device

The Directive and its associated special Directives are principally concerned with the road-safety and safety-at-work aspects of the design of the tractor. The provisions governing the issue of an EEC type-approval certificate for any model of tractor are clearly set out, together with the procedures and the manner of appeal where a tractor is refused a type-approval certificate.

Although Member States are required to permit the sale, registration and use of type-approved tractors in their countries, there is a provision which permits a Member State to withhold its permission where it considers the tractors are a threat to road safety or safety at work. A maximum delay period of six months is specified, and the country concerned is required to give its reasons for withholding its permission. Where a type-approved tractor is subsequently modified, the modified tractor must be presented to the Government authority so that it may be subjected to the test procedures set out in the special Directives for the issue of a new type-approval certificate. The general Directive includes arrangements for the revision of the special Directives in the light of technical progress.

A model of the information document which the manufacturer or his accredited agent must provide to the test authority in order to obtain a type-approval certificate is contained in Annex I of the Directive. This Annex also provides references to international standards and recommendations, as well as to the details required on various tractor components. The technical subject areas to be covered by special Directives are identified in the model of the type-approval document given in Annex 2 of the general Directive.

The special Directives cover dimensional requirements, testing requirements and procedures, or a combination of both. The two special Directives already approved by the Council cover 10 of the 50 technical areas defined in the general framework Directive; but subsequent Directives will deal with individual technical subject areas only, especially where they are already covered by national legislation which involves some inspection or testing.

Although most of the Member States of the Community have accepted the tests procedures devised by the OECD and the International Standards Organisation, the conducting of these tests are often subjected to local interpretations—interpretations which can result in technical barriers to trade. Consequently, Directives derived from the test procedures have to be carefully scrutinised

(continued on page 12)

European scientists collaborate in designing a fusion reactor

A team of six European scientists recently got together at Britain's Atomic Energy Authority laboratories at Culham to start work on designing a 'Tokamak' fusion reactor that could be the penultimate step to a new, cleaner and virtually limitless source of electrical energy from a cheap and plentiful fuel. This picture shows the team examining some of the components of a nuclear fusion machine already under construction at Culham. They are (from left), Dr. G. Venus, a German physicist; Dr. M. Huguet, a French engineer; Dr. P. J. Poffe, a physicist from Belgium; Dr. D. L. Smart, an electrical engineer and head of Culham's Engineering Design Division; Dr. A. Gibson, a British physicist who led earlier Tokamak experiments at Culham; and (right) French physicist Dr. P. Rebut, leader of the Joint European Tokamak (JET) project.

Nuclear fusion—the combining of the nuclei of light elements, giving off an immense release of energy—presents enormous scientific and engineering problems because of the need to devise a method of containing the plasma at the extreme temperatures required for fusion to take place. The Tokamak machine, a doughnut-shaped magnetic-field container, has already gone some way to solving this. The team hope to reconcile a British plan with European proposals to provide plasma conditions more advanced than any so far achieved elsewhere. The JET project is expected to take about a year, but no decision has been taken on a suitable site for building the machine.

Public holidays in the EEC and EFTA in 1974

Holiday

Only main and multi-regional holidays are given.
■ = whole day
□ = part day or regional holiday

	Holiday		Belgium	Denmark	Eire	France	Germany	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands	United Kingdom	Austria	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Portugal	Sweden	Switzerland
Jan	1 New Year's Day	Tues	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	6 Epiphany	Sun					□ g	■				■	■				■	
Feb	11 Vatican Treaty	Mon						□ j										
	25 Carnival	Mon							□ k									
Mar	17/18 St. Patrick	Sun/Mon			■ e													
	19 St. Joseph	Tues						■										
Apr	11 Maundy	Thurs		■										■	■			
	12 Good Friday			■	■		■	□ j		■	■		■	■	■		■	■
	15 Easter Monday		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	□ q	■	■	■	■		■	■
	16 Queen's Birthday	Tues		□ d														
	25 Liberation	Thurs						■										
	30 Queen's Birthday	Tues								□ p								
May	1 May (Labour) Day	Wed	■			■	■	■	■			■	■	□ t	■		■	
	6 Spring Holiday	Mon									□ r							
	10 General Prayer	Fri		■														
	17 Constitution	Fri													■			
	23 Ascension	Thurs	■	■		■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■		■	■
	27 Spring Holiday	Mon									□ q							
Jun	1 June Holiday	Sat											■			■		
	2 National Holiday	Sun						■										
	3 Whit Monday		■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■			■		■	■
	5 Constitution	Wed		■														
	10 Portugal Day	Mon														■		
	13 Corpus Christi	Thurs																

Jun	10 Portugal Day	Mon																					
	13 Corpus Christi	Thurs									h												
	17 German Unity	Mon																					
	22 Midsummer (Sweden)	Sat																					
	24 National Day	Mon																					
	29 Ss. Peter and Paul	Sat																					
Jul	14 Bastille	Sun																					
	21 Independence	Sun	a																				
Aug	1 National Day	Thurs																					
	5 August Holiday	Mon																					
	15 Assumption	Thurs																					
	26 August Holiday	Mon																					
Sep	2 Local Fete	Mon																					
	5 Biergerdag	Thurs																					
	28 Insurrection of Naples	Sat																					
Oct	4 Ss. Francis & Catherine	Fri																					
	5 Republic (Portugal)	Sat																					
	26 National Day	Sat																					
Nov	1 All Saints	Fri																					
	2 All Saints (Sweden)	Sat																					
	4 National Unity	Mon																					
	11 Armistice	Mon																					
	15 King's Name	Fri	b																				
	20 Repentance	Wed																					
Dec	1 Independence	Sun																					
	6 Independence	Fri																					
	8 Immaculate Conception	Sun																					
	24 Christmas Eve	Tues																					
	25 Christmas Day	Wed																					
	26 Boxing Day	Thurs	c					f															
	31 New Year's Eve	Tues																					

Notes: a) Optional carry-over—either to Friday 19 or Monday July 22. b) Not national holiday, but public offices and schools closed. c) As for b). d) School holiday only. e) St. Patrick's Day (Sunday 17th) carried over to Monday 18th. f) Alsace-Lorraine only. g) Baden-Wurttemburg only. h) Catholic areas—Baden-Wurttemburg, Bavaria, Hesse, Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland. i) As for h). j) Half-days Italy. k) Luxembourg public offices, banks and shops. l) Sunday 23rd carried over to Monday 24th. m) Luxembourg city only. n) Luxembourg city only—afternoon. o) Afternoon. p) Not national but many offices close. q) Not Scotland. r) Scotland only. s) Scotland also if its extra Bank Holiday, not yet finalised, is fixed for Boxing Day. t) Half-days Iceland.

Directives applicable to agricultural tractors

(*continued from page 9*)

to ensure that there is no possibility of ambiguity in their wording and interpretation.

The special Directives

Directives already approved or now before the Council

Of the two Directives so far approved, one—**Certain elements and Characteristics of Wheeled Tractors**—covers dimensional and test requirements in respect of: the maximum authorised weight on the axles; the positioning of the registration plates; material and pressure requirements for fuel tanks; balance weights; the characteristics of silencers, the maximum bystander noise level, and the test procedure to be used in determining the noise emission from the tractor. Each of these subjects is covered by a separate annex.

The test procedure for determining the maximum design speed of the tractor and the positioning and dimensions of load platforms fitted to tractors are included in the second Directive, which has the title **Maximum Design Speed and Load Platforms**.

The Commission has submitted to the Council a proposal for a Directive concerned with **steering**. The Directive schedules the different categories of steering, sets out the test procedures and provides acceptance limits. These limits include the maximum effort to be applied to the steering wheel when describing a circle of 12 metres radius in respect of both manually operated and assisted steering systems. Separate provisions are included for hydraulic and other special forms of steering assistance.

The Council is also considering a Commission proposal for a Directive for **rear-view mirrors**. The Directive will describe the method of mounting the mirrors, their positioning, and the adjustment procedure where mirrors are accidentally deflected from their normal position. Rear-view mirrors must carry the EEC mark required by the Directive of the Council of March 1, 1971, concerning the harmonisation of the legislation of Member States relative to rear-view mirrors on motor vehicles.

The United Kingdom Delegation was involved in discussions of a further draft Directive covering **field of vision**. The members of the working group of experts have reached agreement on the form the Directive should take and officials of the Commission are in the process of preparing the finalised form for the agreement of the working group. The Directive will define the acceptable limits for zones which mask the driver's view, specifying dimensional requirements and the procedure to be adopted in determining those requirements, and also giving attention to the area swept by windscreen wipers.

Preliminary draft Directives being considered by the working group

The working group is currently considering seven preliminary drafts of Directives. Two, concerned with **braking and lighting**, are based on ECE Regulations—amended to meet the requirements of agricultural tractors.

The technical annexes of the preliminary drafts covering **safety cabs and safety frames** have given rise to considerable discussion, and, as a result, an *ad hoc* group has been formed to discuss them. The group is using, as the basis of its discussion, a document produced by the United Kingdom, which is derived from the International Standards Organisation draft proposal and the British Standard. It is intended that the *ad hoc* group should produce firm and agreed proposals for consideration by the working group of experts before the end of 1973. The final document is expected to define the range of tractors to be covered by the Directive, lay down the test procedures to be used in determining the acceptability of the cab or safety frame, and provide an indication of the conditions under which the tests are to be performed.

At the request of the United Kingdom the preparation of a special Directive limiting the **level of noise at the driver's ears** has been included in the programme of work. This followed from the United Kingdom's decision to introduce legislation limiting the noise level. Two documents are currently under discussion, one of which has been prepared by the Commission's Secretariat on the basis of the original document introduced by the United Kingdom. While the United Kingdom's approach to noise levels has been influenced by the overriding need to safeguard the driver by the fitting of safety cabs, the approach of some of the other countries has been influenced by the comfort of the driver in warm climates. Hence in Italy and the South of France tractor drivers tend to be more concerned about their comfort as regards temperature rather than with the hazard which arises from high noise levels. It will therefore be appreciated that the Directive may need to provide for wide divergence in operating conditions and operator requirements.

Two of the special Directives which are closely related are those concerned with **drivers' seats** and **passenger seats**. Although these may appear to be simple subjects, it must be realised that the introduction of passenger seats could influence the size of safety cabs fitted to tractors, particularly where the space inside the cab is considered insufficient to permit the driver to perform his driving task without the possibility of interference from the passenger.

Research work so far carried out, both internationally and nationally, has been confined to the protection of the driver from injury during the accidental overturning of the tractor while performing normal agricultural tasks. It was not intended that one of the functions of the tractor should be transporting passengers. By custom certain countries have accepted the tractor as a means of carrying persons not only between the fields and the farm but also on the public highway. This has resulted in the demand that passengers' seats be fitted. For reasons of safety and of design there is considerable opposition to the compulsory fitting of passengers' seats in existing models of cabs. Consequently the requirements of the Directive will relate to the optional fitting of seats within clearly defined locations and complying with specific dimensions.

The location of drivers' seats, on the other hand, is regulated by the position of the controls. Regulations exist in some of the Member States which are specific as regards dimensions of seats and the effectiveness of suspension systems, so much so that in one particular country imported tractors are required to be fitted with a seat specified by that country. Research and experimental work is being undertaken in the United Kingdom, Germany and France in connection with seats and seat-suspension systems and a draft standard is currently being debated by the International Standards Organisation. The United Kingdom has been responsible for the introduction of the draft ISO standard, and has been in the forefront in respect of work on seat suspension. Germany has been involved in similar experimental work, and it has been accepted, therefore, that the United Kingdom and Germany should prepare a preliminary draft of the Directive. The draft will include seat dimensions and test procedures.

Preliminary draft Directives yet to be prepared and discussed

In addition to the technical subject areas covered by the special Directives referred to above, there are 20 other technical subject areas for which special Directive proposals have yet to be formulated by the working group. Eight of these technical subject areas are purely dimensional in character, whilst the remaining 12 will, in most cases, in-

volve some form of testing procedure. The Directives concerned with dimensions may include reference points and planes from which such dimensions should be taken.

Priority is being given to those subject areas concerned with the **distribution of weight and loads between the axles** of the tractor within the limits specified by the manufacturers and the limitation imposed by safety and traffic regulations. The loads applied to the axles vary according to the equipment carried or to the equipment or type of trailer towed. The draft Directives will take account of the influence such variations have on the stability and performance of the tractor; will define the maximum load to be applied to the hitch point; and will specify acceptable trailer weights. They will undoubtedly be influenced by existing national legislation. The draft Directive concerning **power-take-offs** will also need to take into account existing and projected safety legislation, as well as existing and draft national standards.

A lower priority has been given to the provisions covering **tractor doors** and **ease of access to the driving position**. These two subjects will undoubtedly be included in a single preliminary draft Directive, and, because of the shortage of universally accepted dimensions, the United Kingdom will submit its own proposals. The remaining technical subjects have the same priority. They include (1) methods of regulating maximum speeds, (2) smoke from diesel engines, (3) reversing arrangements, (4) connections between tractor and trailer, (5) the location and identification of controls, (6) footrests, (7) couplings for trailers.

The United Kingdom has the task of formulating the preliminary draft Directives in respect of **foot-rests** and **the location and marking of controls**. The latter subject has been considered in detail both by the British Standards Institute and by the International Standards Organisation, and the documents prepared by those organisations will be used as the basis for the preliminary draft Directive.

The delegations charged with preparing the preliminary draft Directives have agreed to present them to the working group not later than December 1973. It must however be made clear that the Commission has the final say in the form the proposals are to take, and that the wording of the technical annex agreed by the working group may be subject to modification and amendment in order to satisfy the jurists and linguists (who are responsible for the correct legal format and the correct interpretation of the wording of the document in each of the Member States' languages) and the Economic Questions Group. A Directive is only adopted by the Council and becomes Community law when it receives the approval of the Member States.

Although the general Directive has defined the types of tractor which will require to be type-approved, certain of the special Directives could, in their turn, introduce other limiting features such as weight. Those tractors which fall outside these limiting features (including special tractors such as articulated centre-pivot-steered units) may need to be covered by further type-approval Directives. In the meantime National legislation still applies.

Future Directives

Although the Commission was unable to agree to the raising of the maximum design speed limit to cover tractors with design speeds in excess of 25 km per hour, it accepted that a new type-approval document should be formulated to cover tractors in the higher speed ranges. It is expected that the majority of the special Directives arising from the new type-approval Directive will follow the same format and procedures as those already prepared or in course of preparation for tractors with design speeds not exceeding 25 km per hour.

The Directives so far considered are concerned only with agricultural tractors. The working group of experts has yet to embark on the task of producing acceptable Directive proposals for agricultural machinery posing technical barriers to trade.

Britain and France sign Channel Tunnel Treaty

President Pompidou of France (extreme left) and Britain's Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, watch their respective Foreign Ministers, M. Michel Jobert (left) and Sir Alec Douglas-Home, complete the signing of a treaty between Britain and France for the construction and operation of a Channel Tunnel. Work is expected to begin in 1975 and to be completed in 1980.

The treaty was signed last month at Chequers, Mr. Heath's official country residence, where Mr. Pompidou had joined him to start two days of talks on matters of common interest, including Community affairs.

EEC—your questions answered

The EEC Information Unit's function in life is to help firms—small or large—to find answers to the questions posed by the UK's membership of the European Communities. Many of the inquiries received concern firms' own activities or special problems, and these, of course, are kept strictly confidential; but many are of general interest, and the answers to some of these are given below in the expectation that readers will find them useful.

Q. What is the A.D.R. Agreement? To what extent does it affect dangerous goods being carried to EEC countries by road?

A. The European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) came into force on January 29, 1968. Its purpose is to ensure that dangerous goods being conveyed by road will be able to cross international frontiers without hindrance provided such goods are packed and labelled in accordance with Annex A of the agreement and the vehicles comply with the provisions of Annex B. An important feature of ADR is that tanker vehicles carrying inflammable, or certain vehicles conveying explosive substances, are subject to technical inspection and a certification procedure in their country of registration in order to ensure that they conform with both ADR requirements and with the normal regulations in force in the country of origin governing brakes, lighting, steering, etc. At present 12 countries—Austria, Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, the UK and Yugoslavia—are signatories to the Agreement.

UK hauliers intending to carry dangerous goods to or through these countries will be required to comply with the provision of the Annexes to ADR and in certain instances (see above) require an ADR certificate. Vehicles are inspected for this certificate at certain Department of the Environment Goods Vehicle Testing Stations, and application forms for this test may be obtained from the Traffic Area Offices. Before the test is carried out, the tanks of tanker vehicles must be examined and tested by the inspecting authority approved for the purpose by the Home Office.

Copies of the ADR Agreement (SBN 10 137690 1, price 17½p) and its technical annexes may be obtained from HM Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn, WC1 (Tel: 01-928 6977). Further details of how UK road hauliers wishing to carry dangerous goods to and from those countries which have ratified or have acceded to the ADR agreement are contained in a free leaflet (ADR 2), which may be obtained from the Dangerous Goods Division, Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, SW1P 3EB (Tel: 01-212 7262).

Q. The goods that I manufacture contain parts imported from the USA. When exporting these goods to the EEC during 1973, I have been able to claim relief on the protective duty on the 'third-country' parts and materials and still benefit from the reduced Community rate of duty. Shall I be able to continue to do this next year?

A. The arrangement that has enabled you to claim both duty relief on parts and the intra-Community rate of duty for your exports will end on December 31, 1973. If, after this 'holiday period', you require your exported goods which contain 'third-country' parts to remain eligible for the intra-Community rate of duty you may either forgo export relief on the 'third-country' parts, or obtain export relief on the 'third-country' parts and pay, in the United Kingdom, an additional charge known as 'compensatory levy'.

It will be the exporter's responsibility to decide which of these options he wishes to adopt. The option of using the compensatory levy system will, however, normally be available only where the parts imported into the UK have undergone a process 'sufficient to be regarded as manufacture'.

The compensatory levy is calculated by multiplying the value for duty purposes at importation into the UK of the 'third country' parts, the full rate of the EEC Common Customs Tariff on the parts, and the percentage reduction of the CCT at the date of export.

As an example, a manufacturer of adding machines imports parts from the USA under Tariff Heading 84.55. He uses £1,000 worth of these parts in machines for export to the EEC. He claims export relief on the duty paid on the parts contained in the exported machines and must therefore pay compensatory levy if he wishes his customer in the EEC country to receive the reduced intra-Community rate of duty on the machines. The full rate of CCT on the parts is 6 per cent and the amount of compensatory levy payable is therefore £1,000 × 6 per cent × 40 per cent (the amount by which duties will have been reduced between the UK and the EEC in 1974), giving a total of £24.

Details of the operation of the compensatory levy system during 1974 are contained in Customs Notice No. 241. A detailed explanatory article will appear shortly.

Q. If I re-export my goods of Commonwealth origin to France, will I benefit from the reduced level of the Common Customs Tariff?

A. Generally to be eligible for the reducing level of CCT on import into France from the United Kingdom, the goods concerned must be in 'free circulation' in the United Kingdom. Imported goods are considered to be in free circulation in the UK if they have borne the Customs duty and any agricultural levies to which they are liable on entry into this country, provided no drawback or similar export relief is claimed when they are re-exported.

Goods originating in the Commonwealth dependent countries and territories and the independent developing Commonwealth countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Indian and Pacific Oceans will continue to be admissible under full Commonwealth Preference until January 31, 1975. If they are imported under full Commonwealth Preference they will not be considered to be in free circulation in the United Kingdom and will be subject to the full CCT rate on re-export to another EEC country. The independent countries concerned are:

Bahamas	**Kenya**	**Tanzania**
Barbados	**Lesotho**	**Tonga**
Botswana	**Malawi**	**Trinidad and Tobago**
Fiji	**Mauritius**	**Uganda**
Gambia	**Nigeria**	**Western Samoa**
Ghana	**Sierra Leone**	**Zambia**
Guyana	**Swaziland**	
Jamaica		

The dependent countries and territories are:

Belize
Bermuda
British Antarctic Territory
British Indian Ocean Territory
British Solomon Islands Protectorate
British Virgin Islands
Brunei
Cayman Islands
Central and Southern Line Islands
Falkland Islands and Dependencies
Gilbert and Ellice Islands
Montserrat
New Hebrides
Pitcairn
St. Helena and Dependencies
Seychelles
Turks and Caicos Islands
West Indian Associated States (Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, St. Kitts—Nevis—Anguilla)

Commonwealth Preference for goods originating in Commonwealth countries other than the above will begin to be phased out from the beginning of next year. Imports to the UK from these countries will therefore be subject to a rate of duty moving over the transitional period towards the full CCT rate. Therefore, once the duty has been paid, these goods will be considered to be in free circulation and eligible for the Community preferential rate of duty if re-exported to other EEC countries.

From the beginning of next year the UK will participate in the enlarged Community's Generalised System of Tariff Preferences. Goods imported into the UK under this scheme will be regarded as in free circulation and eligible for the Community preferential rate of duty if re-exported to the EEC. Imports into the UK from those Commonwealth countries (listed above) which continue to be entitled to the full Commonwealth preference until January 31, 1975, will be considered to be in free circulation if it can be proved that they have been imported into the UK under the Generalised Preference System rather than under Commonwealth Preference.

You may also wish to re-export goods originating in an EFTA country. Those goods which are imported into the UK duty free from Iceland, Portugal, Austria, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Finland under the Free Trade Agreements with the EEC, and from the Republic of Ireland under the Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement, will be considered to have paid the relevant customs duty in the UK. They will therefore enjoy the status of goods in free circulation in the UK.

A full explanation of free circulation is contained in Customs Notice No. 752, available from Customs and Excise Collectors' Offices.

For answers to *your* questions, contact the EEC Information Unit, Department of Trade and Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. Tel: 01-222 7877—Ext. 3591 for publications: Exts. 5377, 5479, 5480 or 3579 for questions on EEC matters.

EIB loans for the British Steel Corporation

BSC's £29.4 million loans

It was announced in October that the European Investment Bank was to lend £14.7 million sterling (30 million units of account) to the British Steel Corporation for the Corporation's investment programme on Teesside. The loan was for a period of 17½ years, and the rate of interest 8½ per cent p.a.

BSC's 10-year development strategy includes the construction of a modern complex, capable of producing more than 12 million tonnes of steel a year, on the south bank of the Tees. The first stage of the project was completed this summer, when the Corporation commissioned its new ore terminal at Redcar. Work is now starting on the second phase, which will raise the output of the existing blast furnaces and make possible, in turn, an increase in the output of liquid steel from the three-vessel basic oxygen steel-making shop at Lackenby. EIB's loan will meet part of the cost of installing the new burden-preparation facilities. The project will stabilise employment and provide jobs in a development area where unemployment remains above the national average, and it will also, of course, create additional temporary local employment during the construction period.

The loan for the Teesside expansion has now been followed by one for another BSC development—this time in South Wales. On December 6 the EIB signed an agreement with the Corporation for a further loan of £14.7 million (at the same interest rate but for a period of 18 years) to help finance work, which, aimed at increasing output of hot-rolled coil from the strip mill at BSC's works at Llanwern, will involve the construction of a third blast furnace as well as other plant. This expansion at Llanwern, and other developments planned there, could provide about 1,500 jobs.

Opportunities for UK firms

As was made clear in an article on the EIB which appeared in the October issue of *European Communities Commentary*, the Bank is empowered to grant long-term loans to private and public undertakings for schemes aimed at 1) improving the situation in re-development areas, 2) modernising or converting industries in decline, or 3) realising ventures of common interest to Member States of the European Community. The South Wales loan is the third granted to borrowers in the UK. The first was a 'global' loan of £3.5 million made last July to the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, from which, with the EIB's approval, the ICFC is able to finance small and medium-scale ventures in the UK's development areas.

The financing of modernisation and rationalisation projects in the UK is likely to play an increasingly important role in EIB activities, particularly in the light of the problems of the older industrial regions of the UK. Projects in the assisted areas can qualify not only for EIB low-interest loans of up to 40 per cent of the fixed capital costs, but also (provided the security of the EIB loans is not guaranteed by the Government) for the full range of financial assistance under the Industry Act. For modernisation and rationalisation projects in the assisted areas which do not create additional employment, the present rates of interest on EIB loans compare favourably with the interest rates on loans for such projects under the Industry Act. The facilities which can be offered by the EIB therefore represent a substantial opportunity for UK enterprises.

Applications can be made direct to the Bank's Head Office at 2 Place de Metz, Luxembourg, or through a banker, or through the DTI's Industrial Development Executive, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QU, or through any of the DTI's Regional Offices. Small or medium-sized firms who wish to benefit from the global loan made to the ICFC should get in touch with ICFC Head Office at Piercy House, 7 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7DD (Tel: 01-628 4040), or any of the ICFC's 19 branch offices.

Research into business objectives and social priorities

It has been announced that the European Commission, in co-operation with the Administrative Staff College at Henley in the United Kingdom, is to carry out a programme of research into business objectives and social priorities centred on the importance of social responsibility in industrial planning, the effect of a social policy on management responsibility in private enterprise, and the implications of worker participation for business aims.

Economic Indicators of the EEC

These tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves; international publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented by later reports where possible. In addition to the Member States of the EEC, the United States and Japan have been included for comparison.

The form of presentation adopted—indicators by subject—is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned.

An extensive bibliography—'Sources of Statistics: 2. The European Economic Community'—which lists publications in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library of the Department of Trade and Industry, is obtainable on request to the library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (Tel: 01-248 5757, ext. 368). 'Statistical News' No. 21 (May 1973), published by the Central Statistical Office, contains a selected bibliography of statistical publications of the Commission of the European Communities.

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

(Excluding construction) Seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxem-bourg	France[1]	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom[4]	EEC[3]	*United States*	*Japan*
Weights in EEC	3.8	0.3	23.5	36.5	0.7	12.6	4.4	18.2	100.0	—	—
Weights in total	1.5	0.1	9.0	14.0	0.2	4.9	1.7	7.0	36.4	*48.4*	*13.1*
1968	88	88	84	83	90	91	81	96	87	*99*	*74*
1969	97	100	94	94	97	94	91	100	95	*104*	*88*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	103	99	106	102	105	99	109	100	103	*100*	*103*
1972	109	103	114	106	109	104	116	102	108	*108*	*110*
1971 1st quarter	103	96	104	102	104	99	106	100	102	*99*	*103*
2nd quarter	103	100	103	103	104	96	106	101	102	*100*	*102*
3rd quarter	104	100	107	102	103	95	108	100	102	*100*	*103*
4th quarter	103	99	109	100	107	100	110	100	103	*101*	*103*
1972 1st quarter	108	98	111	104	107	99	113	97	104	*103*	*106*
2nd quarter	109	102	112	105	106	99	115	102	106	*107*	*108*
3rd quarter	108	104	115	105	109	97	116	103	107	*109*	*111*
4th quarter	114	108	117	109	114	105	120	106	111	*113*	*116*
1973 1st quarter	116	114	122	113	122	99 (e)	123	110	115	*115*	*124*
2nd quarter	114	112	122	114		108 (e)	122	111	115	*117*	*128*
3rd quarter			124	113		109 (e)		112		*119*	*131*
1972 August	107	106	115	103		95	116	102	106	*109*	*111*
September	111	104	115	106		98	117	104	108	*110*	*113*
October	112	107	115	108		105	118	105	110	*112*	*114*
November	114	107	118	109		104	119	106	111	*113*	*116*
December	116	110	119	111		105	123	107	113	*113*	*119*
1973 January	115	108	122	113		101	123	108	114	*115*	*122*
February	116	116	122	115		98 (e)	124	110	115	*116*	*122*
March	116	117	123	112		98 (e)	122	111	114	*116*	*127*
April	113	112	119	115		106 (e)	122	110	114	*116*	*126*
May	120	114	125	112		108 (e)	122	110	115	*117*	*129*
June	110	111	123	115		111 (e)	122	111	115	*118*	*129*
July	110	115	126	109		112 (e)	121	112	114	*119*	*129*
August		115	126	111		108 (e)	124	111	113	*118*	*131*
September			120 (e)	118 (e)		108 (e)		112		*119*	*131*
October										*120* (e)	
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	−1.4	−0.6	+1.4	−1.2	+7.0	+0.8	−0.3	+1.2	+0.3	*+1.3*	*+1.8*
On a year earlier	+4.3	+10.0	+7.8	+7.6	+14.0	+12.9	+6.7	+9.0	+7.2	*+8.1*	*+18.3*

[1]Excluding clothing, wood products and furniture.
[2]Mining and manufacturing only.
[3]Excluding Denmark.
[4]Revised weights used in this series
(e) Estimated
Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

Monthly Digest of Statistics

Prepared by the Central Statistical Office in collaboration with the Statistics Division of Government Departments, this digest is designed to provide industrialists and business executives with invaluable statistics relating to the economic situation in the United Kingdom. It contains a regular series of detailed statistics on a wide range of subjects which include the following: *Labour. Fuel and Power, External Trade, Wages and Prices, Industrial Production, Industrial Materials, Finance.*

Price 63p (*by post* 72½p). Annual Subscription £8.60 including postage, and a copy of the Definitions of items and units employed in the Digest.

Government publications can be bought from the Government Bookshops in London (post orders to PO Box 569, SE1 9NH), Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, or through booksellers

HMSO BOOKS

TABLE 2. UNEMPLOYMENT seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1,3]	Denmark[1,3]	France[2,4]	German F.R.[5]	Ireland[1]	Italy[6]	Netherlands[2,5]	United Kingdom[5]	*United States*[6]	*Japan*[7]
1968	147	163	97	218	88	113	147	95	*69*	*108*
1969	120	129	85	120	86	108	115	94	*69*	*104*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	100	125	129	126	100	100	135	129	*122*	*111*
1972	123	125	145	166	114	114	235	142	*118*	*119*
1971 1st quarter	96	92	121	105	95	96	107	111	*122*	*105*
2nd quarter	96	125	126	126	95	102	122	126	*121*	*110*
3rd quarter	100	133	132	142	100	98	141	135	*123*	*115*
4th quarter	107	150	138	154	112	102	174	146	*124*	*121*
1972 1st quarter	114	138	142	143	114	106	207	149	*123*	*119*
2nd quarter	120	142	146	181	114	113	254	147	*120*	*120*
3rd quarter	125	125	148	192	117	121	265	141	*118*	*122*
4th quarter	130	100	145	176	114	117	237	132	*113*	*117*
1973 1st quarter	125	41	140	141	107	107	220	117	*108*	*110*
2nd quarter	127	106	144	187	103	133	263	106	*107*	*108*
3rd quarter	132	101	158	214	106	100	259	99	*103*	
1972 August	125	121	148	193	117		270	139	*119*	*124*
September	128	117	150	194	117		267	141	*118*	*122*
October	132	104	147	191	114	117	257	137	*118*	*119*
November	131	100	144	179	114		243	132	*110*	*120*
December	127	98	144	157	114		211	126	*110*	*111*
1973 January	125	50	141	131	110	107	202	124	*107*	*111*
February	125	29	139	142	107		217	116	*109*	*108*
March	125	43	139	150	105		239	111	*107*	*110*
April	127	131	143	179	102	133	259	109	*108*	*107*
May	127	83	143	189	102		263	105	*107*	*110*
June	128	104	145	194	105		270	104	*104*	*108*
July	131	107	153	207	105	100	257	102	*103*	*107*
August	131	98	157	216	105		265	99	*103*	*110*
September	134	99	163	219	107		257	96	*105*	
October				267 (e)				91	*100*	
November								86		
Rate %	2.4		1.9	1.2		3.2	2.6	2.2	*4.5*	*1.0*
% change latest three months										
On previous three months	+3.7	−4.8	+9.8	+18.8	+2.3	−24.4	−1.6	−11.5	*−2.1*	*−0.4*
On a year earlier	+4.9	−17.4	+6.8	+21.4	−9.5	−16.8	−2.2	−33.4	*−13.4*	*−11.9*

Note: Figures of total unemployment and unemployment rates are very sensitive to the particular measures used and the sources from which they are obtained. The figures in this table to a large extent reflect the different administrative systems and social-security provisions of the countries concerned.

[1] Insured unemployed. [2] Change of basis during period. [3] Monthly data are weekly averages. [4] Unfilled applications. [5] Registered unemployed.
[6] Based on results of sample survey. [7] Unemployment-insurance beneficiaries.
[8] Numbers in latest month available as % of total employees (UK) and of total labour force (others). (e) estimated. Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators

TABLE 3. EXPORTS (fob)
Special trade,[1] seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2]	*Japan*[2]
1968	8,160	2,580	12,708	24,840	792	10,188	8,340	15,348	64,236	*34,416*	*12,972*
1969	10,068	2,952	15,024	29,052	888	11,724	9,960	17,520	97,200	*37,992*	*15,984*
1970	11,592	3,288	17,940	34,188	1,032	13,188	11,772	19,356	112,356	*43,224*	*19,320*
1971	12,081	3,609	20,592	39,009	1,308	15,177	13,953	22,356	128,084	*44,211*	*23,994*
1972	15,612	4,332	25,777	46,187	1,603	18,576	16,386	24,340	152,813	*49,667*	*28,511*
1971 1st quarter	2,868	834	4,818	9,219	312	3,531	3,273	4,896	29,751	*11,370*	*5,538*
2nd quarter	2,898	900	4,893	9,522	321	3,534	3,354	5,623	31,045	*11,106*	*5,928*
3rd quarter	3,186	918	5,382	10,179	321	3,930	3,561	5,820	33,297	*11,805*	*6,123*
4th quarter	3,129	957	5,499	10,089	354	4,182	3,765	6,016	33,991	*11,106*	*6,405*
1972 1st quarter	3,582	1,056	5,913	11,025	369	4,368	3,945	6,044	36,302	*12,045*	*6,675*
2nd quarter	3,821	1,085	6,337	11,472	385	4,487	4,149	6,378	38,114	*11,676*	*6,656*
3rd quarter	3,919	1,055	6,445	11,270	413	4,556	4,025	5,389	37,072	*12,529*	*7,261*
4th quarter	4,290	1,136	7,082	12,420	436	5,165	4,267	6,529	41,325	*13,505*	*7,891*
1973 1st quarter	4,721	1,322	7,630	14,074	467	4,279	5,573	6,863	44,929	*15,692*	*8,266*
2nd quarter	5,270	1,409	8,665	16,106	509	5,170	5,845	7,673	50,647	*16,817*	*8,752*
3rd quarter			9,932	18,917		6,124 (e)		8,062		*18,523*	*9,336*
1972 August	1,370	341	2,094	3,938	130	1,488	1,406	1,304	12,071	*4,193*	*2,382*
September	1,361	355	2,289	3,820	142	1,521	1,367	2,127	12,982	*4,237*	*2,535*
October	1,403	374	2,344	4,157	147	1,590	1,379	2,286	13,680	*4,413*	*2,497*
November	1,306	375	2,351	4,171	144	1,510	1,434	2,149	13,440	*4,563*	*2,623*
December	1,581	387	2,387	4,092	145	2,065	1,454	2,094	14,205	*4,529*	*2,771*
1973 January	1,370	396	2,432	4,606	132	1,445	1,759	2,210	14,350	*5,189*	*2,564*
February	1,612	472	2,540	4,776	164	1,603	2,003	2,331	15,501	*5,110*	*3,064*
March	1,739	454	2,658	4,692	171	1,231	1,811	2,322	15,078	*5,393*	*2,638*
April	1,761	419	2,673	5,122	162	1,454	1,793	2,531	15,915	*5,607*	*2,909*
May	1,740	494	2,891	5,550	172	1,685	2,027	2,460	17,019	*5,518*	*2,920*
June	1,769	496	3,101	5,434	175	2,031	2,025	2,682	17,713	*5,692*	*2,923*
July	1,940 (e)	593	3,369	6,008	179	2,147	2,109	2,652	18,997 (e)	*5,895*	*3,167*
August	2099 (e)	485	3,228	6,456	185	1,924	2,382 (e)	2,660	19,419 (e)	*5,996*	*2,960*
September			3,335	6,453		2,053 (e)		2,750		*6,632*	*3,209*
October			3,369 (e)	6804 (e)				2,655		*6,612* (e)	*3,339* (e)
% change latest three months											
On previous three months	+6.6	+15.1	+6.1	+16.0	+6.7	+18.5	+15.7	+3.5	+16.9	*+12.5*	*+5.5*
On a year earlier	+49.9	+48.2	+47.6	+65.4	+30.5	+34.4	+61.6	+41.1	+51.8	*+49.8*	*+28.2*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade.
* All values are expressed in US dollars, making use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.
Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade and Industry
All others: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 4. IMPORTS (cif) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2,3]	*Japan*[2]
1968	8,304	3,216	13,980	20,148	1,176	10,248	9,288	18,960	85,320	*33,108*	*12,984*
1969	9,984	3,804	17,388	24,924	1,416	12,444	10,992	19,956	100,908	*36,048*	*15,024*
1970	11,352	4,380	19,116	29,808	1,572	14,940	13,392	21,720	116,280	*39,960*	*18,876*
1971	12,390	4,476	21,261	34,356	1,838	16,026	15,159	23,897	129,403	*45,633*	*19,716*
1972	14,903	4,971	26,665	39,783	2,113	19,284	17,142	27,831	152,692	*55,800*	*23,463*
1971 1st quarter	2,952	1,101	4,971	8,091	486	4,020	3,615	5,702	30,938	*10,815*	*4,920*
2nd quarter	3,033	1,104	5,145	8,391	435	3,825	3,660	5,904	31,497	*11,556*	*4,938*
3rd quarter	3,102	1,110	5,502	8,811	450	3,993	3,882	5,952	32,802	*12,057*	*4,722*
4th quarter	3,303	1,161	5,643	9,063	463	4,188	4,002	6,339	34,161	*11,205*	*5,136*
1972 1st quarter	3,573	1,185	6,354	9,435	495	4,458	4,095	6,848	36,443	*13,455*	*5,400*
2nd quarter	3,630	1,136	6,454	9,997	511	4,610	4,234	6,954	37,526	*13,200*	*5,456*
3rd quarter	3,721	1,301	6,606	9,836	511	4,895	4,233	6,530	37,633	*14,056*	*5,955*
4th quarter	3,979	1,349	7,251	10,515	596	5,321	4,580	7,499	41,090	*15,089*	*6,652*
1973 1st quarter	4,704	1,570	7,922	11,845	618	5,355	5,416	8,242	45,673	*16,173*	*7,355*
2nd quarter	5,238	1,753	9,004	13,168	657	6,700	5,627	9,401	51,548	*16,587*	*9,269*
3rd quarter			10,358	14,625		7,759		10,182		*17,616*	*10,122*
1972 August	1,286	420	2,166	3,429	154	1,656	1,448	1,889	12,448	*4,657*	*2,119*
September	1,298	436	2,316	3,346	191	1,623	1,413	2,654	13,277	*4,776*	*2,069*
October	1,281	453	2,340	3,471	192	1,723	1,543	2,554	13,557	*4,805*	*2,091*
November	1,365	474	2,336	3,554	188	1,527	1,536	2,509	13,489	*5,123*	*2,225*
December	1,333	422	2,575	3,490	216	2,071	1,501	2,436	14,044	*5,161*	*2,336*
1973 January	1,543	546	2,515	3,704	196	1,675	1,732	2,573	14,484	*5,260*	*2,254*
February	1,555	506	2,649	4,144	207	2,124	1,823	2,674	15,682	*5,512*	*2,445*
March	1,606	518	2,758	3,997	215	1,556	1,861	2,995	15,506	*5,401*	*2,656*
April	1,639	503	2,662	4,031	209	1,906	1,878	2,876	15,704	*5,273*	*2,881*
May	1,791	620	3,102	4,514	214	2,190	1,892	3,245	17,568	*5,580*	*3,098*
June	1,808	630	3,240	4,623	234	2,604	1,857	3,280	18,276	*5,734*	*3,290*
July	1,856 (e)	676	3,539	4,844	263	2,393	2,374	3,277	19,222	*5,767*	*3,256*
August		678	3,383	4,904	246	2,560	2,583 (e)	3,448		*5,956*	*3,587*
September			3,436	4,877		2,806 (e)		3,457		*5,893*	*3,279*
October			3,799 (e)	5,435 (e)				3,591		*6,241* (e)	*3,635* (e)
%change latest three months											
On previous three months	+13.7	+20.9	+7.5	+8.8	+16.3	+15.8	+21.0	+7.1	+17.4	*+5.9*	*+8.9*
On a year earlier	+51.9	+59.0	+55.6	+48.5	+48.6	+58.5	+61.9	+47.9	+48.6	*+27.1*	*+67.2*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] *fob.*

* All values are expressed in US dollars with the use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

(e) estimated. Source: United Kingdom; Department of Trade and Industry. All others: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 5. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ON CURRENT ACCOUNT

US$ million (unadjusted)

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	28	−216	−1,089	2,726	− 62	2,627	65	−682	*− 444*	*1,048*
1969	74	−410	−1,818	1,609	−191	2 339	31	1,068	*−1,049*	*2,119*
1970	748	−539	− 152	730	−188	761	−474	1,661	*415*	*1,970*
1971	874	−449	527	175	420	1.785	−172	2,588	*−2,789*	*5,797*
1972	1,113		273	398		1,451	1,051	221	*−8,354*	*6,656*
1971 1st quarter	156	−194	− 36	210		−125	−153	154	*677*	*434*
2nd quarter	232	−127	125	− 68		245	−175	833	*− 689*	*1,262*
3rd quarter	189	− 31	13	−232		1,158	50	900	*−2,191*	*2,100*
4th quarter	297	− 97	425	265		507	106	701	*− 586*	*2,001*
1972 1st quarter	279	− 44	− 314	— 52		606	5	− 73	*−1,852*	*959*
2nd quarter	215	49	455	−125		699	267	476	*−2,473*	*1,225*
3rd quarter	235	− 44	− 3	−485		577	382	−355	*−3,331*	*2,091*
4th quarter	384	− 51	135	1,059		—431	397	173	*− 698*	*2,381*
1973 1st quarter	354	—142		207				−837	*74*	*514*
2nd quarter								−420	*− 249*	*−372*

Source: UK: Central Statistical Office. All others: IMF International Financial Statistics

TABLE 6. EXPORT UNIT VALUES OF MANUFACTURES

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg		France		German F.R.		Italy		Nether-lands		United Kingdom		*United States*	*Japan*	
	US$	Bfrs.	US$	frs.	US$	D.M.	US$	lire	US$	Gdrs.	US$	£	US$	US$	Yen
1968	91	91	96	85	88	96	92	92	95	95	90	90	*91*	*90*	*90*
1969	95	95	97	90	92	93	95	95	97	97	93	93	*95*	*95*	*95*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*	*100*
1971	101	98	106	106	108	103	106	105			110	109	*102*	*105*	*102*
1972			116	107							121	117	*105*	*118*	*101*
1971 1st quarter	97	97	103	103	101	101	104	104			105	105	*103*	*101*	*101*
2nd quarter	98	98	104	104	104	102	105	105			108	108	*102*	*104*	*104*
3rd quarter	101	98	106	106	111	104	106	105			112	111	*101*	*106*	*105*
4th quarter	108 (e)	100 (e)	109	109	115	104	109	106			117	112	*103*	*109*	*99*
1972 1st quarter	113	100	114	105	118	104	114	107			123	114	*104*	*113*	*97*
2nd quarter			114	105	118	104	114	107			125	116	*105*	*118*	*101*
3rd quarter			117	108	122	107	116	108			120	118	*104*	*120*	*103*
4th quarter			118	109	119	105	116	108			117	119	*106*	*122*	*104*
1973 1st quarter											122 (e)	121 (e)	*107*		
2nd quarter											132 (e)	125 (e)	*110*		
% change latest 3 months:															
On previous 3 months	+4.6	Nil	+0.9	−0.9	−2.5	−1.9	Nil	Nil			+8.2	+3.3	*+2.8*	*+1.7*	*+1.0*
On a year earlier	+16.5	+3.1	+8.3	Nil	+3.5	+1.0	+6.4	+1.9			+5.6	+7.8	*+4.8*	*+11.9*	*+5.1*

(e) estimated. Source: Dollar value: 'United Nations Monthly Bulletin'. National currency: Dollar values converted at OECD exchange rates as quoted in 'Series A

TABLE 7. CONSUMER PRICES
All goods and services

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]	Luxembourg[1]	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	*United States*	*Japan*[2]
1968	92	93	91	89	93	86	93	89	90	*90*	*88*
1969	96	96	94	95	96	92	95	96	94	*94*	*93*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	104	105	106	105	105	109	105	108	109	*104*	*106*
1972	110	110	113	112	111	118	111	116	117	*108*	*111*
1971 1st quarter	102	103	103	103	103	105	103	104	106	*103*	*104*
2nd quarter	104	104	105	105	105	108	104	107	109	*104*	*106*
3rd quarter	105	105	107	106	106	110	105	108	111	*105*	*107*
4th quarter	106	107	108	108	107	112	107	110	112	*106*	*108*
1972 1st quarter	108	108	110	109	109	115	108	113	114	*106*	*108*
2nd quarter	109	109	112	110	110	117	109	115	116	*107*	*111*
3rd quarter	111	111	114	113	112	120	111	116	118	*108*	*111*
4th quarter	113	113	116	115	114	122	114	119	121	*109*	*113*
1973 1st quarter	115	114	118	116	116	126	117	121	123	*111*	*116*
2nd quarter	117	117	122	118	119	130	122	125	127	*113*	*123*
3rd quarter	118	117	125	121	120	133	124	126	129	*116*	*126*
1972 August	111	111	113	112	111	120	111	116	118	*106*	*112*
September	111	112	114	113	113		112	117	119	*109*	*112*
October	112	112	115	114	113		114	119	120	*109*	*113*
November	113	113	116	115	114	122	114	119	121	*109*	*112*
December	114	113	117	115	114		115	120	121	*109*	*113*
1973 January	115	114	117	115	116		116	121	122	*110*	*114*
February	115	114	118	116	116	126	117	121	123	*111*	*115*
March	116	115	119	116	117		119	122	124	*112*	*118*
April	116	116	120	117	118		120	124	126	*112*	*121*
May	117	117	122	118	119	130	122	125	127	*113*	*123*
June	117	117	123	119	120		123	125	128	*114*	*123*
July	118	117	124	120	120		124	125	128	*114*	*124*
August	118	117	124	121	119	133	124	126	129	*116*	*125*
September	119	118	126	122	120		125	127	130	*117*	*129*
October	120 (e)			123 (e)	121 (e)		126	128 (e)	132 (e)	*117* (e)	*128* (e)
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	+1.5	+0.5	+2.5	+2.5	+0.6	+ 2.4	+ 2.1	+1.5	+2.0	*+2.7*	*+3.2*
On a year earlier	+6.8	+5.4	+10.0	+8.1	+6.8	+11.2	+11.5	+8.2	+9.4	*+7.4*	*+13.2*

[1]Excluding rent. [2]Change of basis during period. (e) estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 8. VALUE OF RETAIL SALES
Current prices, seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]/ Luxembourg	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.[3]	Ireland[4]	Italy[1]	Netherlands	Great Britain[5]	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	83	82	88	82	83	84	80	89	*92*	*80*
1969	90	90	97	90	91	90	89	93	*95*	*89*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	107	108	104	111	111	108	109	109	*109*	*110*
1972	122	119	109	120	125	119	119	122	*119*	*118*
1971 1st quarter	101	103	101	108	108	105	104	103	*105*	*105*
2nd quarter	105	107	103	110	110	106	108	107	*108*	*107*
3rd quarter	111	109	104	112	111	108	110	111	*110*	*112*
4th quarter	111	112	106	113	114	111	114	114	*112*	*113*
1972 1st quarter	115	114	106	117	119	113	114	115	*114*	*111*
2nd quarter	121	117	108	118	122	112	118	118	*117*	*114*
3rd quarter	127	123	111	122	126	121	120	124	*120*	*120*
4th quarter	123	123	111	122	132	126	123	129	*125*	*124*
1973 1st quarter	131	128	112	131	142	131	126	135	*132*	*135*
2nd quarter	134	129	115	130	148		129	132	*132*	*139*
3rd quarter			114						*135*	
1972 August	125	123	112	126	126	121	124	124	*121*	*120*
September	134	124	112	122	127	128	122	124	*121*	*121*
October	119	123	114	125	138	121	123	127	*125*	*122*
November	120	123	108	120	128	126	124	128	*124*	*125*
December	128	121	110	122	129	133	121	131	*126*	*126*
1973 January	125	129	112	129	138	122	124	130	*130*	*131*
February	134	128	112	134	145	133	126	135	*132*	*134*
March	133	126	111	128	143	139	124	139	*134*	*139*
April	130	128	111	129	142	133	125	129	*132*	*138*
May	134	126	119	130	148	136	130	130	*133*	*139*
June	139	134	115	130	153		131	135	*133*	*141*
July		133	114	129	143		125	138	*137*	*145*
August		135	113	128				139	*135*	*145*
September			116						*134*	
% change latest three months:										
On previous three months	+2.8	+5.8	−0.9	Nil	+3.3	+ 5.2	+2.9	+3.5	*+2.2*	*+3.6*
On a year earlier	+11.0	+11.4	+1.8	+6.0	+19.4	+18.6	+10.0	+12.3	*+12.2*	*+21.4*

[1]Department stores. [2]Department and chainstores. [3]Excluding West Berlin. [4]Average weekly sales. [5]Excluding motor vehicles.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 9. EARNINGS/WAGES PER HEAD IN MANUFACTURING

Indices 1970=100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[1, 2]	France[6]	German F.R.[7, †]	Ireland[3]	Italy[4]	Nether-lands[4]	United Kingdom†	*United States*[5]	*Japan*[6 †]
1968	84	81	82	79	76	78	82	81	*90*	*73*
1969	92	90	91	87	86	83	90	89	*95*	*85*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	111	115	110	111	116	113	112	111	*106*	*114*
1972	127	129	120	121	133	124	126	126	*113*	*131*
1971 1st quarter	107	108	104	108	110	109	107	108	*104*	*108*
2nd quarter	110	114	107	109	114	111	110	111	*106*	*111*
3rd quarter	112	117	110	113	118	114	114	112	*106*	*116*
4th quarter	115	121	113	112	122	116	116	115	*108*	*117*
1972 1st quarter	122	123	115	116	127	119	122	121	*111*	*123*
2nd quarter	124	128	118	120	131	121	124	124	*112*	*129*
3rd quarter	129	130	121	122	135	126	128	127	*113*	*131*
4th quarter	132	135	126	126	140	130	129	132	*116*	*138*
1973 1st quarter	140	137	128	130	145	137 (e)	136	134	*118*	*145*
2nd quarter	144		133	135		150 (e)	139	139	*120*	*155*
3rd quarter			138						*122*	
% change latest three months:										
On previous three months	+2.9	+ 1.5	− 3.7	+ 3.5	+ 3.6	+ 9.5	+ 2.2	+ 3.7	*+1.4*	*+ 7.3*
On a year earlier	+16.1	+11.4	−13.5	+12.5	+14.2	+24.0	+12.1	+12.1	*+7.7*	*+20.5*

† Seasonally adjusted

[1]Earnings in industry and construction. [2]Including bonuses. [3]Earnings. [4]Hourly earnings industry: males. [5]Gross hourly earnings per productive worker. [6]Monthly earnings in manufacturing: regular workers. [7]Wages and salaries per employed person in industry, excluding construction, public gas and electricity undertakings. [8]Hourly-rates times average daily hours worked.

Source: All countries 'OECD Main Economic Indicators', except German Federal Republic ('Monatsberichte der Deutschen Bundesbank', Reihe 4), Italy ('I.L.O. Yearbook' and 'M.E.I.') and United Kingdom ('Department of Employment Gazette').

Customs notices of interest to exporters

THE following Public Notices issued by HM Customs and Excise relate to various aspects of export procedure. Copies of these Notices may be obtained from the local Officer of Customs and Excise, whose address appears in the telephone directory and to whom all inquiries should be addressed, or from the Secretary, HM Customs and Excise, 39-41 Mark Lane, London, EC3R 7HE.

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